

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact

- Passed October 2008
- 8 states in the Great Lakes Watershed
- Each state allowed 5 years to adopt implementing legislation
- 1985 Great Lakes Charter
- Annex 2001 – agreement to protect, preserve, restore and improve waters

Key Definitions

- Waters of the Basin – includes ground water
- Diversion – excludes water in Products and containers <5.7 gallons
- Consumptive Use – evaporation, incorporation into Products, other

Key Definitions

- Intrabasin Transfers – combine Michigan/Huron, connecting waters
- Straddling Community
- Straddling County – boundaries lie partly or wholly within Basin
- Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures

ESEFWCM

- Best Management Practices
- Specific to a facility/process
- Includes: efficient use; water loss and waste reduction

Compact Goals

- Protect, conserve, restore, improve, effectively manage water resources
- Cooperative planning; actions
- Facilitate consistent water management
- Facilitate data exchange/engage in consultation with other entities

Compact Goals

- Prevent significant adverse impacts
- Promote adaptive management approach to conservation and water management
- Strengthen science and reliance on science-based decisions

Report to Council & Regional Body

- Due within 1 year and every 5 years after
- Includes: water mgt. strategy (by sector); conservation/efficient use program implementation

Report Content

- Water resources inventory (withdrawals, diversions, consumptive uses)
- Maintain water use data - >100,000 gallons per day in any 30 days plus diversions in any amount
- States report annually the monthly use data

Conservation

- Each party develops goals within 2 years, consistent with regional goals
- Voluntary or mandatory
- Conduct annual assessment & make available to the public
- Apply to all existing uses within 2 years

Diversions

- Prohibited (Diversions out of basin) – with exceptions

Straddling Communities (PWS use)

Straddling Counties (PWS use)

Intrabasin Transfers - $< 100,000$ gpd

Intrabasin Transfers - $> 100,000$ gpd if no feasible, cost effective alternative & includes conservation

Diversion Criteria

- Quantity limited to existing need
- Return flow req'd (less consumptive use) – must meet WQS
- No individual or cumulative adverse impacts
- Requires conservation/efficient use

More Diversion Criteria

- Straddling Counties –
 - Return flow must be maximized without “augmentation”
 - No reasonable alternative
 - Requires regional review with single veto:
 - Goal – 90 day review process
 - Must hold public meeting in the originating State/Province

Permit Thresholds

- Set by each state
- Michigan thresholds:
 - 2 MGD withdrawal capacity; GW or SW
 - 1 MGD withdrawal capacity – Zone C
 - 100,000 GPD intrabasin transfer
 - 200,000 GPD bottled water
 - Withdrawal determined to be in Zone D, but accompanied by restorative measure

Prior Notice

- Notice to 8 states/2 provinces for any new or increased “consumptive use” of 5 MGD or more
- Consumptive Use coefficients used – PWS coefficient is 10-15% (0.1 to 0.15)
- Example: A new capacity of 50 MGD would result in a consumptive use of 5 MGD using the 0.1 coefficient

Prior Notice (cont.)

- 90-day review
- Public Meeting Required
- Feedback is "Advisory" – not binding on the originating state

Baseline Capacity

- States must report baseline capacity to Council & Regional Body within 1 year
- Baseline capacity defined in state legislation and is different for various water sectors